Help to Sri Lanka to fight LTTE

49. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the veracity of the media report suggesting that Government of Sri Lanka had pleaded in vain with Indian Government for providing material help which they required to launch military assault against the terrorist outfit of the LTTE;

(b) the items and volume of material help/supplies sought for by Sri Lankan Government over last five years *vis-a-vis* those provided to them;

(c) whether it is a fact that, in absence of positive response of India, Sri Lankan authorities approached and obtained abundant help from Pakistan and China; and

(d) the rationale behind not extending the help needed by a democratic Government in our neighbourhood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) The report is inaccurate.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Killing of LTTE Chief

50. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Sri Lanka informed Government of India that V. Prabhakaran, Chief of LTTE and his son have been killed in an encounter with Sri Lankan army and that LTTE agitation has come to an end;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken up this issue of safety and welfare of Tamils in Sri Lanka;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) In a telephonic conversation on 18th May, 2009, Sri Lankan President, H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa informed then External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee that the LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran was dead and armed resistance by LTTE had come to an end.

(c) to (e) The Government has emphasized to the Sri Lankan Government that it must focus on the issues of relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of the internally displaced Tamil population. The National Security Advisor Shri M.K. Narayanan and Foreign Secretary Shri Shivshankar Menon visited Colombo on May 20-21, 2009. The Sri Lankan Government conveyed

to them their plan to resettle most of the displaced persons in their original homes within 180 days. This assurance was reiterated during the visit of a high-level Sri Lankan delegation led by Hon'ble Basil Rajapaksa, Senior Adviser to the Sri Lankan President, on June 24, 2009.

The Government has committed to provide all possible assistance for facilitating the rapid rehabilitation and resettlement of the Tamil population. Prime Minister has announced Rs. 500 crores for the relief and rehabilitation of the internally displaced persons in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lankan war with LTTE

51. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sri Lankan army has finally achieved victory over the LTTE;

(b) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the details of the LTTE activists, ethnic Tamil civilians and Sri Lankan army personnel killed in the last battle; and

(d) the number of Tamil civilians displaced by the war and measures being taken by the Union Government to ensure proper rehabilitation of these displaced Tamil civilians by the Sri Lankan Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) In a telephonic conversation on 18th May, 2009, Sri Lankarn President, H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa informed then External Affairs Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee that the LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran was dead and armed resistance by LTTE had come to an end. The Government believes that the end of the conflict, there is an opportunity to make a new beginning and pursue a lasting political settlement in Sri Lanka.

(c) The details have not been made known by the Sri Lankan Government.

(d) As per available information, about 2.9 lakh civilians have been displaced by the conflict since the second half of last year. The Government has emphasized to the Sri Lankan Government at the highest levels that it must focus on the issues of relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of the internally displaced Tamil population. The Sri Lankan Government has assured the Government of their plan to resettle most of the displaced persons in their original homes within 180 days. Prime Minister has announced Rs. 500 crores for the relief and rehabilitation of the internally displaced persons in Sri Lanka. With a view to facilitating the process of resettlement, India has already taken steps to augment its existing humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka which includes a 62-member Indian field hospital, food, medicines and other essential supplies.